



**Department of Homeland Security
National Infrastructure Protection
Center
Daily Open Source Infrastructure
Report
for 21 March 2003**

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- CNN reports a government administration official has said that recent intelligence indicates that the Palo Verde nuclear power plant near Phoenix, Arizona, may be targeted by terrorists. (See item [1](#))
- NBC10 reports the FBI is investigating Delaware's Marcus Hook refinery where police Wednesday arrested two people of Middle Eastern descent for suspicious activity. (See item [2](#))
- The International Herald Tribune reports a mysterious respiratory illness continued to spread on Thursday, killing a sixth patient in Hong Kong as suspected new victims were reported throughout the world. (See item [23](#))
- The Washington Post reports that a hacker group marred hundreds of Web sites with digital graffiti Wednesday night in an apparent response to the onset of the U.S.-led war against Iraq, prompting security experts to warn of further cyberattacks in the days to come. (See item [33](#))
- Sophos reports the new email-aware Swedish computer worm W32/Ganda-A lures unsuspecting users with Iraq spy satellite photos. (See item [35](#))

DHS/NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector



Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: High

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 20, CNN* — **U.S. official: Arizona nuclear plant may be target. A Bush administration official said that recent intelligence indicates that the Palo Verde nuclear power plant near Phoenix, Arizona, could be targeted by terrorists.** However, another U.S. government source said the intelligence is uncorroborated and has not been deemed credible. But officials are taking any such threat seriously, according to the source. With events unfolding in the Iraqi crisis this week, the U.S. government raised the national terrorism threat alert level from yellow, or "elevated," to orange, or "high." Orange is the second-highest level in the nation's five-tiered, color-coded threat alert system. **Jim McDonald of the Arizona Public Service Co. said that National Guard troops were dispatched to protect the Arizona plant Tuesday afternoon. The National Guard was not deployed during two previous periods of the orange alert.** McDonald declined to comment on the intelligence information. But he said, "We do take all of this very seriously and the plant is very well-protected." **The Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, about 50 miles west of Phoenix, has three reactors and is the largest power plant in the country, according to the Arizona Public Service Co. It has generated 30 billion kilowatt hours of electricity in each of the last three years.** It supplies power to Arizona, Southern California, Texas, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/Southwest/03/20/nuclear.plant.threat/index.html>
2. *March 20, NBC10* — **FBI investigates suspicious activity at Marcus Hook refinery . Extra security in the war on terror may have paid off in Delaware County, PA -- police Wednesday arrested two people outside a refinery in Marcus Hook for what they are calling "suspicious activity."** The Federal Bureau of Investigation is checking into why two men were observed at the refinery late Tuesday night, driving slowly near the propane and jet fuel tanks and ducking from police. **NBC 10 News was told that the two men were of Middle Eastern descent and that they gave different stories to the police, so the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services took them into custody.** The driver said he was from Jordan and the bureau said he was not supposed to be in the Marcus Hook area. He is in the United States on a visa. The other man is a U.S. citizen, but was apparently from Yemen. Sources said that police found chemistry books, books written in Arabic and religious tapes in the car. **A white powder was discovered in the trunk of the car and the FBI is testing it to find out what it is. Sources say the driver had with him a life insurance policy of a significant amount. Police would only say that, at this point, they have had a number of incidents in the area of the refinery since 9/11.** The city has taken extreme measures, though, to keep its 3,000 residents safe.
Source: <http://www.nbc10.com/print/2051324/detail.html>
3. *March 20, New York Times* — **Bills would let N-plant guards carry automatic weapons. In an attempt to close what they called "glaring loopholes," two assemblymen from Westchester County yesterday proposed that private security guards at New York State's nuclear power plants be allowed to carry automatic weapons.** It was the second measure introduced in the Legislature this week to bolster security at six active nuclear reactors being operated at four sites around the state. **Earlier this week, State Senator James W. Wright, a Republican of Watertown, introduced a bill to grant private security guards who patrol nuclear and electric generating plants peace officer status, allowing them to carry**

automatic weapons and make arrests. Both the Senate and the Assembly bills would also authorize the guards to use deadly force; currently they may fire weapons in self-defense but must wait for law enforcement officers to arrest or pursue trespassers. **Despite assurances from the Entergy Corporation, which owns Indian Point, many advocates for shutting it down have often complained about what they consider lax security at the plant, an hour's drive north of Manhattan and to opponents an unacceptable threat to public health and safety.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/20/nyregion/20NUKE.html>

4. *March 19, The Denver Post* — **Power disruptions in Denver. Sporadic power disruptions Tuesday morning turned into wider-scale outages as the March blizzard intensified. At 5 p.m., 5,000 customers in metro Denver were without power, although the tally had been about 15,000 homes affected earlier in the day after three major distribution lines went down.** Officials at Xcel Energy said crews were working staggered shifts around the clock to repair downed power lines. A fallen distribution line Tuesday afternoon left 5,800 homes and businesses without power in Arvada, although service was restored by early evening. Two other downed lines caused outages for a total of about 4,200 households in west-central Denver and the Hilltop and Mayfair neighborhoods of east Denver. Since the storm began Monday, about 65,000 metro Denver homes had lost power at various times, Xcel officials said. Xcel's strategy is to first repair larger distribution lines, which serve 1,500 to 8,000 customers. Smaller outages in neighborhoods or individual homes can take longer to repair — with customers being told to expect restored service within a range of four to 24 hours, said Xcel spokesman Steve Roalstad. **Roalstad said electrical system performance has been good compared to the wide-scale power outages during a severe wind, rain and hail storm in 2001 that left 250,000 customers without power.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3720680

5. *March 19, Saint Paul Pioneer Press* — **Utility proposes second Rosemount, Minnesota, power plant. Great River Energy officials said Tuesday the utility wants to build a \$400 million natural gas plant in Rosemount along County Road 42 east of U.S. 52. It's the second major plant proposed for Rosemount. Xcel Energy is proposing a 550-megawatt coal-fired plant a few miles away.** The Great River Energy plant would generate up to 600 megawatts of power. If both proposed plants are built, Rosemount would become the state's second-largest provider of electricity. **The two proposed plants would generate enough power for more than 1 million homes, turning northeastern Rosemount into a kind of energy park.** "It is just a prime spot for power plants," said Kandace Olsen, spokeswoman for Great River, which supplies power to rural cooperatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin. She and county officials said that for a city in the metro area, Rosemount has a great deal of open space, correct zoning and access to natural gas lines, rivers, highways and rail lines.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3721130

6. *March 19, Reuters* — **U.S. natural gas supplies seen hitting record lows. Natural gas inventories in the U.S. are set to slump to their lowest levels on record, depleted by the robust demands of a tough winter and lagging production, traders and industry analysts said Wednesday.** Players throughout the energy industry said they expect confirmation of the record lows on Thursday when the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) releases its latest set of weekly data on natural gas in storage. "Storage is at an uncomfortable level for this

time of year, and it will clearly be a challenge to refill supplies by Nov 1," said Jay Yannello, senior utilities analyst at UBS Warburg, an investment bank in New York. Last week's EIA report showed that total U.S. gas stocks had slipped to 721 billion cubic feet, just shy of the all-time record low of 697 bcf hit in April 1996, when another cold winter drained storage. **Inventories, which currently stand almost 60 percent below last year and 50 percent below the five-year average, are a critical source of supply used to meet up to 20 percent of gas use during periods of high demand.**

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_03_19_eng-reuters_pma_U-S-NATURAL-GAS-SUPPLIES-SEEN-HITTING-RECORD-LOWSa>

7. *March 14, Eureka Times-Standard (CA)* — **Calpine eyes port for liquid gas terminal.**

Representatives from the energy giant Calpine have Humboldt Bay at the top of their list as a site to import liquefied natural gas and ship it to the gas infrastructure backbone in the Central Valley. **Calpine has been searching the West Coast for a site to bring in liquefied methane by huge 900-foot ships, then store it in huge tanks, possibly at the Simpson Paper Co.'s former mill site. Some of the gas would also be used to fire a 220 megawatt power plant.** The representatives met with business leaders, county supervisors, city council members and others on Wednesday and Thursday, with other meetings scheduled for today. They were told that if Calpine chose the site after a full evaluation and successfully negotiated the mire of regulatory and public hurdles, the project could break ground in 2008. **There could be many such hurdles. Issues about the proximity of such a facility to Eureka and Samoa, the practicality of bringing in the huge ships and the North Coast's unruly seismic attitude are certain to come into play.** "The supply of liquefied natural gas is robust, but the transportation infrastructure is the problem," said Calpine spokesman Kent Robertson. The port has been dredged to accommodate larger vessels, though some additional work may be needed to handle the 900-footers. Liquid natural gas, which is methane, was identified as a strong opportunity for the port in a recent study done by international marine consulting firm PB Ports and Marine of Portland, OR.

Source: <http://www.times-standard.com/Stories/0.1413.127%257E2896%257E1244032.00.html>

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Chemical Sector

8. *March 20, Journal Star (Peoria, IL)* — **Peoria authorities say area's chemical plants are secure. A day after a report indicated little was being done on the federal level to assess threats against chemical plants, Peoria-area authorities say they have been meeting for years on such matters. "We have our emergency plans which would press into the companies, hazardous materials plans," said Vicky Turner, director of Peoria County's Emergency Services and Disaster Agency.** Before terrorism became a worry for middle America, Turner and others in the Tri-County Area had planned for the worst in case something happened at industrial sites like chemical plants in Mapleton. That's not the case on the national level, according to a report released Tuesday from the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress. The report claims the "extent of security preparedness at U.S. chemical facilities is unknown." **"While some other critical infrastructures are**

required to assess their security vulnerabilities, no federal requirements are in place to require chemical facilities to assess their vulnerabilities and take steps to reduce them," the report stated.

Source: <http://www.pjstar.com/news/local/g136326a.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *March 20, Washington Post* — **Pentagon scrambles for satellites.** Industry sources say the Pentagon has been scrambling to buy up access to commercial satellites to bolster its own orbiting space fleet. The military needs the bandwidth to support an information-age battle plan that depends on the ability to transmit huge amounts of data to troops in the field, planes in the air and even weapons in flight. **The Defense Department declined to comment yesterday, but in other public statements officials have said the military is using 10 times the satellite capacity it used in the 1991 Persian Gulf War, when there was a similar scramble for spectrum.** The Pentagon "is hoovering up all the available capacity," said Richard DalBello, president of the Satellite Industry Association, a trade group. **At the same time, the world's media organizations, including U.S. and European broadcast networks, are competing with the military for satellite time. Almost every news organization with journalists in the region depends on satellites to transmit voice and video to their editors and producers in offices thousands of miles away.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A56320-2003Mar 19.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *March 20, U.S. Department of Treasury* — **U.S. freezes Iraq's U.S.-based assets.** U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow announced on Thursday that all nondiplomatic Iraqi government assets in the United States will be frozen. **Snow said President George W. Bush had issued an executive order to confiscate the assets. "The order authorizes Treasury to marshal the assets, and to use the funds for the benefit and welfare of the Iraqi people," Snow said.** Snow said the United States was urging other countries throughout the world to freeze all assets of Saddam Hussein and of his ruling Iraqi regime.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/personalfinance/retirement/newswire/2003/03/20/rtr913807.html>

11. *March 19, U.S. Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury Department announces executive director of terrorism risk insurance program.** The Treasury Department announced on Wednesday that Jeffrey S. Bragg, former Administrator of the Federal Insurance Administration during the Reagan Administration, has been named Executive Director of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program (TRIP), established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002. He will begin work in early April. **As Executive Director, Bragg will be responsible for implementing the operational requirements of the Act and managing the TRIP program. He will direct TRIP staff, consultants and contractors; set operational**

guidelines and policies; and report on Program operations and results to Treasury Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions Wayne A. Abernathy. Bragg also will be responsible for ensuring that an appropriate mechanism for processing claims for Federal payments under the Program is in place and that the process is supervised appropriately to provide maximum protection for taxpayer resources and efficiency of operations.

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/js118.htm>

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Transportation Sector

12. *March 20, New York Times* — New York steps up scrutiny and some traffic slows to crawl.

Concerned that river crossings are among the likelier potential targets for terrorist attacks, the New York Police Department sharply increased its patrols at bridges and tunnels yesterday. The patrols, along with inspections of trucks in Manhattan, slowed traffic to a single-lane crawl on entrance ramps and avenues. The traffic snarls were perhaps the most visible evidence that New York was feeling the squeeze of security in anticipation of the American-led attack on Iraq. **Officials said that officers at more than a dozen checkpoints used handheld devices the size of a cellphone to scan cargo for radiological material. The inspections – part of Operation Atlas, reflected a sense of what might be on the minds of terrorists. While no specific threat against a particular bridge or tunnel has been received, officials said, in recent months intelligence analysts studying statements by captured terrorists found several mentions of the economic disruption that would follow an attack on any of the major routes into the city.** For that reason, police harbor patrols have been told to concentrate on the areas around bridges and tunnels, officials said. That directive strengthened an earlier focus on river crossings that included posting a police launch in the East River near the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges and installing a new system of surveillance cameras and alarms on bridges and tunnels. **The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the Lincoln and Holland Tunnels and the George Washington Bridge, has also stepped up truck inspections and is counting on help from New Jersey state troopers.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/20/international/worldspecial/20YORK.html>

13. *March 20, Washington Times* — 140 more agents will be sent to border. Nearly 140 new federal agents will be assigned to the U.S.–Mexico border in Arizona this year to protect against terrorists, a rising flood of illegal immigrants, and drug and alien smugglers, said border czar Asa Hutchinson. "We are taking on the protection of our borders with a new agency at a time of a real national threat to our country, but we are up to the task," said Hutchinson, undersecretary for border and transportation security at the Department of Homeland Security. His comments came after a two-day Blackhawk helicopter tour of much of Arizona's 400-mile-long international border, during which he assured trade association and community leaders that protecting the border did not mean stopping the free flow of trade and commerce into the United States. **Hutchinson said 70 Border Patrol agents and 69 Customs Service inspectors would be assigned to the new Bureau of Customs and Border Protection at the ports of entry, adding that Congress had approved \$500 million to study technology improvements for the nation's security.**

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/national/20030320-85000331.htm>

14. *March 20, Associated Press* — **Tri-State governors announce joint security plans. State police in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey have joined in a new effort to strengthen security on the commuter rail system, the governors for the three states said Thursday.** Pataki, New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey and Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland spoke at Grand Central Terminal, with National Guard troopers standing behind them. **The governors said that additional National Guard members and state troopers from their states would ride the subways, PATH, Metro-North and LIRR commuter trains.** Pataki said he has signed an executive order that extends the law enforcement jurisdiction of New Jersey and Connecticut into New York state. **Rowland said that both undercover and uniformed state troopers would ride the trains. He said they would be armed and have the "same arrest powers" as uniformed police officers.**

Source: <http://www.ctnow.com/news/custom/newsat3/hc-ap-tristate-0320.0.5047635.story?coll=hc%2Dheadlines%2Dnewsat3>

15. *March 19, CBS.MarketWatch.com* — **Chicago mayor pleads for no-fly zone.** With the threat of a U.S. attack on Iraq and heightened national terror alerts in place, **Chicago Mayor Richard Daley implored federal agencies Wednesday to reinstate a no-fly zone over key local landmarks such as the Sears Tower, the John Hancock building and other downtown sites.** Daley said he again asked the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Homeland Security to expand its restrictions of flying over major cities and tourist attractions to Chicago. **The city's downtown was designated as a no-fly zone shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on U.S. targets, but that was lifted in April.** The mayor has been adamant for years about keeping small, general aircraft out of the city's fly-over zone. Pilots of such planes are not required to file flight plans and Daley claims that no one knows they're even around until a pilot radios Meigs Field for permission to land.

Source: <http://cbs.marketwatch.com/news/story.asp?guid=%7B5E76E356%2D2653%2D4E24%2DB1B5%2DE2A4522930EF%7D/font>>

16. *March 17, Federal Times* — **Border agents to train to spot range of threats. The Homeland Security Department plans to cross-train its border security employees so they can have at least basic understanding in areas of customs inspection, animal and plant inspection and immigration.** “We want the front-line inspectors knowledgeable enough so that they can do a primary inspection [and be] alert enough to trigger areas of concern across the board,” said Asa Hutchinson, Homeland Security undersecretary for border and transportation security (BTS), in a March 11 interview. However, he said, the cross-training effort is not meant to achieve the creation of a “super agent” at the borders — an agent who knows everything about customs, immigration and animal and plant health inspection laws and regulations. Instead of having Customs Service, Immigration, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service inspectors separately evaluating individuals entering the United States, the Homeland Security Department wants one inspector to do so, said Secretary Tom Ridge on Jan. 30. **The idea is for BTS inspectors to be able to detect potential problem areas in immigration or customs, for instance. Then they can refer the areas of concern to other border security experts for closer evaluations, Hutchinson said.**

Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=1665792>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *March 20, New York Times* — **Their mission: intercepting deadly cargo.** Before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the main purpose of what was then known as the Customs Service was to slow the flow of illegal drugs into the United States. Now, the renamed Bureau of Customs and Border Protection is expanding its use of advanced technologies in the service of its new No. 1 mission: stopping potential terrorist weapons. It is a big job. According to the customs bureau, 7.2 million shipping containers entered the country in the year ended last September, in addition to 11.1 million trucks, 2.4 million railroad cars, 768,000 commercial airline flights and 128,000 private flights. **Complementing the government's array of fiber-optic cameras (for looking into containers without opening them), vapor tracers (for detecting conventional explosives) and other technologies, most of the new devices in the customs arsenal seem designed to detect components of a nuclear weapon or a radiological "dirty bomb." At ports, hand-held radiation detectors are used by teams, along with the imaging systems; at border crossings, trucks are routed through radiation-detection portals. The bureau is also working on tools to detect chemical and biological materials.** It can be difficult to measure the effectiveness of systems meant to detect or deter the unthinkable, and while government officials are reluctant to discuss what their high-tech tools have detected, there is no public indication they have uncovered terrorist activity. **Still, with security agencies at a heightened level of alert, federal officials say the new technologies are critical.** Some of the new anti-terrorism systems were being used before Sept. 11, mostly to look for narcotics, and have been adapted; others are newly deployed. The systems are getting a look from agencies beyond the customs bureau, like the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the region's airports and many of its bridges and tunnels.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/20/technology/circuits/20secu.html>
18. *March 20, Federal Computer Week* — **Despite technology, cargo vulnerable. Despite great strides in inspecting cargo containers bound for the United States, the shipments remain a threat to U.S. security, a top Homeland Security Department (DHS) official told Congress March 20.** Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Customs Service has deployed new technology to inspect cargo before goods leave a foreign port. Radiation devices are being used once cargo arrives in the United States. And a manifest of what's in a container must be transmitted to U.S. authorities before a ship leaves port. **It is the right strategy, according to Asa Hutchinson, the DHS' undersecretary for border and transportation security. But, he noted, it is a daunting task: The price is substantial, and it is difficult to deploy counterterrorism measures at many unsophisticated ports.**
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0317/web-cargo-03-20-03.asp>
19. *March 19, Dow Jones* — **E.U. set to negotiate new deal with U.S. over port security.** European Union governments Tuesday gave the E.U. Commission a mandate to negotiate port security arrangements with the U.S., as a compromise in a fight over Washington's new anti-terrorism laws. **E.U. foreign ministers meeting in Brussels Tuesday agreed to give the Commission the power to negotiate the addition of the security measures to the current E.U.-U.S. customs agreement. In return, the Commission said it would drop legal action against E.U. countries that had signed deals with Washington.** The U.S. negotiated bilateral accords with the seven E.U. nations in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. **Under the deals, U.S. customs officials have been posted in some E.U. ports to check on container**

traffic heading for the U.S. European officials said the bilateral customs agreements distort trade because some containers arriving in the U.S. from Europe would be cleared faster depending on which E.U. port they came from.

Source: <http://sg.biz.yahoo.com/030318/15/393jx.html>

20. *March 19, San Francisco Chronicle* — **Heightened security for ferries, cargo ships. Armed sea marshals on San Francisco Bay ferries, closer vetting of crews on cruise ships and cargo ships, and U.S. Coast Guard escorts for selected vessels are all part of the new wave in seaport security as America enters into armed conflict with Iraq.** Security at major points of entry such as the Port of Oakland, the fourth– busiest cargo seaport in the United States, was already tightened in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Now, it will grow tighter, federal and port authorities say. On Tuesday, the Department of Homeland Security said that, **"every high–interest vessel arriving or departing from American ports will have armed Coast Guard sea marshals on board, closely watching the ship's crew and ensuring that it makes its port call safely. These merchant ships have cargoes, crew members or other characteristics that warrant close examination."** Lt. Kelly Thorkilson, of the Coast Guard's safety and security division, confirmed that sea marshals and vessel escorts were being used in Northern California waters. The new measures are intended to plug remaining security leaks at seaports, which handle 90 percent of the nation's imported goods and host thousands of travelers who have forsaken the troubled waters of the Mediterranean, near the Middle East. **"Cruise ship companies have reassigned vessels from the Mediterranean to the West Coast,"** said Peter Dailey, maritime director at the Port of San Francisco. **"We expect about 175,000 passengers in 2003, which will make this our busiest cruise season in 30 years."** Some ferries between San Francisco and Alameda carried as many as three armed Coast Guard sea marshals on Tuesday, said Dailey, noting marshals had been used before, but not as often or as many.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2003/03/19/MN177418.DTL>

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Agriculture Sector

Nothing to report.

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Food Sector

21. *March 20, e4engineering.com* — **Spotting contaminated chickens.** Researchers at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (UWA) have developed a procedure which will enable food producers to detect the bacterial contamination of meat products. **Dr Roy Goodacre and David Ellis of the Institute of Biological Sciences at UWA have used Fourier transform infrared (FT–IR) spectroscopy to produce a fingerprint of the biochemical changes that occur on the surface of chicken breast meat as a result of the growth of microorganisms.** "We have used spectroscopic analysis to exploit this information so that, rather than measuring exclusively the presence of bacteria on the meat surface, infrared can be used to measure the

biochemical changes within the meat substrate, enhancing and accelerating the detection of microbial spoilage. We have developed horizontal attenuated total reflectance (HATR) FT-IR spectroscopy with the most appropriate machine learning algorithms for estimating the bacterial total viable count directly off the surface of muscle foods. **The effectiveness of this technology has been established through a detailed investigation of the natural spoilage process on chicken breast muscle.** In addition, this technique takes a few seconds as compared to hours to days by conventional means," said Dr Goodacre.

Source: <http://www.e4engineering.com/item.asp?id=45661>

22. *March 20, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **Processors could face more fines for tainted meat. The Bush administration is considering asking Congress for new authority to crack down on processors that produce tainted meat, including the power to fine companies.** Under existing law, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) can do little to punish problem meat plants other than shut them down or seek criminal charges. Those penalties are considered so severe that they are seldom used. **In addition to the power to fine companies, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said Wednesday that the administration may ask lawmakers to require that companies notify the USDA when tests find harmful bacteria in their plants.**
Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.cfm?Id=327t>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

23. *March 20, International Herald Tribune* — **Mystery illness extends its reach.** A mysterious respiratory illness continued to spread on Thursday, killing a sixth patient in Hong Kong as suspected new victims were reported throughout the world. The number of people infected in Hong Kong had risen by 20 to 165 as of Thursday afternoon, and the World Health Organization had counted at least 264 cases. **Insights into the disease's transmission came after medical investigators linked the majority of Hong Kong cases and three of the international outbreaks to guests who stayed on the ninth floor of the Metropole Hotel in Kowloon, Hong Kong on February 21 and 22. Travelers infected at the hotel subsequently accounted for outbreaks in Vietnam, Singapore, and Canada.** The transmitter of the disease, a 64-year old doctor from mainland China, arrived at the hotel extremely ill and may have acquired the disease while treating victims of a pneumonia outbreak in neighboring Guangzhou Province. The death announced Thursday was the doctor's brother-in-law, the sixth person killed here by the disease, called severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The brother-in-law did not stay in the hotel but had dined with the doctor.
Source: <http://www.ihf.com/articles/90449.html>

24. *March 20, Reuters* — **U.S. health chief pledges \$700 million to fight HIV, flu.** Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson pledged millions in funding Wednesday

to thwart deaths from two of the nation's leading killers, influenza and HIV/AIDS. **In testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education, Thompson described one initiative, the \$100 million included in President Bush's 2004 budget that is intended to build U.S. vaccine production capacity. The money would go toward building the nation's capacity to manufacture flu vaccines year-round, Thompson said, and develop techniques that could be used to rapidly scale up vaccine production if a widespread disease outbreak did occur.** He expressed concern about the danger posed by emerging infectious diseases, especially of a potentially virulent flu strain. "If we wait until a pandemic begins, it may be too late to act to minimize the loss of life in our country and across the world," he said in a statement, recalling the 1918 flu outbreak that killed an estimated 25 million people. Meanwhile, the HHS announced it will award \$600 million in grants to the 51 US cities hit hardest by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2120/hl_nm/hiv_aids_dc

25. *March 20, Health Scout News* — **Antibiotics were overprescribed amid anthrax scare. Amid the 2001 anthrax attacks, doctors prescribed unnecessary antibiotics to tens of thousands of Americans, a new federal study says. That, in turn, raised the risk of shortages of the drugs if more people had needed them, while increasing the likelihood of germs building resistance to the drugs because of overuse, says the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) study.** The new figures suggest many more people got antibiotics in response to the anthrax attacks than was reported in November 2001, when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said 32,000 Americans had been given preventive doses. Prescriptions for Cipro soared by some 160,000, or more than 40 percent, in October 2001 compared with the previous year. After the CDC confirmed a second drug, doxycycline, could treat anthrax exposure, prescriptions for that drug rose by 120,000, or about 30 percent, by early November 2001, compared with the previous year.

Source: <http://www.healthcentral.com/news/NewsFullText.cfm?id=512335>

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Government Sector

26. *March 20, New York Times* — **Administration seeks more money to protect against terror attacks.** The White House said on Wednesday that it would ask Congress for an emergency spending package for domestic counterterrorism programs. **The administration, which warned this week of the possibility of multiple terrorist attacks linked to war with Iraq, would neither give a dollar figure for the emergency spending plan nor specify how the money would be divided.** Republican Congressional officials said they believed that Congress was ready to approve billions of dollars for extra domestic defense spending as part of a much larger emergency spending package to cover the costs of an American invasion and occupation of Iraq. **A senior House Republican aide said Republican leaders were considering a plan that would include an additional \$1 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, \$200 million to \$700 million more for the Coast Guard, and a large increase in federal grants to local police and fire departments for counterterrorism training.** Administration officials said the decision to seek the new domestic-security money was a result of terrorist threats linked to an American attack on Iraq and recent intelligence suggesting that new terrorist strikes were likely.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/20/international/worldspecial/20HOME.html>

27. *March 20, Washington Post* — **Agencies told to keep workers up to date on emergency planning.** Federal agencies should hold "town hall" meetings with employees to discuss contingency plans for dealing with terrorist attacks and other emergencies, according to the president's top civil service adviser. **"In these times, the concern of federal employees is understandable,"** Kay Coles James, director of the Office of Personnel Management, said in a memo this week to agency heads. **"Often, this concern can be addressed by informing our workforce of the contingency plans in place for their safety and protection."** James added, **"Please be aware that, from the calls we are receiving, this communication may not be happening consistently throughout government."** Last week, James published two manuals on the OPM Web site (www.opm.gov/emergency) that provide general guidelines for dealing with an accidental or intentional release of chemical, biological or radiological material. The manuals were based on the advice of 23 experts from 16 agencies. On Wednesday, OPM officials met with members of the Human Resources Management Council, an interagency group of top federal personnel officials, to discuss the new manuals.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A57250-2003Mar_19.html

28. *March 20, Washington Times* — **Iraqi crisis puts agencies on a war footing.** The FBI planned to run full staffs around the clock starting on Wednesday, the National Guard stood by to help prevent terrorist attacks and control anti-war protesters, and Metrobuses were banned from military bases yesterday as agencies increased security measures in preparation for the U.S.-led war against Iraq. **Van A. Harp, head of the FBI's Washington field office, said leave has been canceled for all of the agency's nearly 700 personnel and asked the public to phone in all suspicious activity.** In the District, military officials decided that Metrobuses would no longer be allowed to drive through Bolling Air Force Base or the Anacostia Naval Station, beginning tomorrow. Bus riders will have to board buses outside the bases and walk through checkpoints. **Metro had its sixth-highest ridership ever on Tuesday, with 705,892 riders, and was on a pace to have even more riders yesterday. Metro said it has increased the number of patrols and station checks by officers with police dogs, and stepped up surveillance at bus and rail yards. Officials said they were also urging customers to be alert and diligent.** The Secret Service maintained its extended perimeter around the White House, keeping pedestrians off sidewalks from Pennsylvania Avenue and E Street between 15th and 17th streets NW, and on 17th Street adjacent to the Old Executive Office Building, as well as on 15th Street alongside the Treasury Department.

Source: <http://www.washtimes.com/metro/20030320-31785072.htm>

29. *March 20, Honolulu Advertiser* — **Hawaii security level raised.** Barriers sprang up around public buildings on Wednesday and security tightened at Hawaii's airports, power plants, oil refineries and reservoirs as island officials responded to America's war against Iraq. **At 3 p.m., the U.S. deadline for Saddam Hussein and his sons to relinquish power, Gov. Linda Lingle raised Hawaii's alert status from blue to yellow, the highest it has been since the year-old national terror alert system was implemented. Raising the alert status to yellow – which "indicates a significant risk of terrorist attack" – also triggered greater security and scrutiny at Hawaii's airports and harbors, said Maj. Gen. Robert Lee, director of state Civil Defense and head of the Hawaii National Guard.** Although there was no new specific threat to the state, Lingle said, "it would be prudent for the citizens of Hawaii to be at this

elevated level of awareness."

Source: http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2003/Mar/20/ln/ln3_0a.html

30. *March 20, U.S. Department of State* — **Public Announcement: Worldwide Caution.** The U.S. Department of State has issued a Public Announcement to alert Americans to an increased potential for anti-American violence, including terrorist actions against U.S. citizens, as a result of the military action in Iraq. The U.S. Government remains deeply concerned about the security of Americans overseas. American citizens are reminded that it is more important than ever to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. **This Worldwide Caution supersedes that issued on February 6, 2003 and expires on July 20, 2003.** As a result of military action in Iraq, there is a potential for retaliatory actions to be taken against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. The threat to U.S. citizens includes the risk of attacks by terrorist groups. **Public Announcemen: Worldwide Caution Terrorist actions may include, but are not limited to, suicide operations, bombings or kidnappings. Possible threats include conventional weapons such as explosive devices or non-conventional weapons, including chemical or biological agents.** Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets.

Source: <http://travel.state.gov/wwc1.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *March 20, Federal Bureau of Investigation* — **FBI Director Mueller outlines war preparations as part of Operation Liberty Shield.** FBI Director Robert S. Mueller announced on Thursday that the FBI has put in place extraordinary measures as part of Operation Liberty Shield to protect the American people from acts of terrorism during the war with Iraq. Over the past 18 months, the FBI has restructured from top-to-bottom to strengthen its ability to predict and prevent acts of terror. **For the past year, it has been developing specific strategies to protect Americans in the event of a war with Iraq. Immediately upon declaration of war, the FBI launched its comprehensive plans.** Steps include: Activating the Strategic Information and Operations Center, or "SIOC," at FBI Headquarters to serve as the 24/7 national command post; Setting up special command posts in each of the FBI's 56 field offices to work closely with Joint Terrorism Task Forces to gather intelligence and respond quickly to potential threats and reports of suspicious activity; Sending Special Agents to interview a number of Iraqi-born individuals and others in the U.S. to assure them of the FBI's responsibility to protect them from hate crimes and to elicit information on any potential operations of Iraqi agents or sympathizers; and, Actively investigating others who have links to terrorism.

Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel03/mueller032003b.htm>

32. *March 20, Federal Bureau of Investigation* — **FBI seeking public's assistance in locating individual suspected of planning terrorist activities.** The FBI has issued a "Be on the Lookout" (BOLO) alert for Adnan G. El Shukrijumah in connection with possible threats against the United States. In the BOLO alert, the FBI expresses interest in locating and questioning El Shukrijumah, and asks all law enforcement personnel to notify the FBI immediately if he is located. El Shukrijumah's current whereabouts are unknown. **El**

Shukrijumah is possibly involved with al-Qaeda terrorist activities and, if true, poses a serious threat to U.S. Citizens and interests worldwide. El Shukrijumah is 27 years old and was born in Saudi Arabia. He is approximately 132 pounds (but may be heavier today), 5'3" to 5'5" tall, has a Mediterranean complexion, black hair, black eyes, and occasionally wears a beard. El Shukrijumah carries a Guyana passport, but may attempt to enter the U.S. with a Saudi, Canadian, or Trinidad passport as well. El Shukrijumah has gone by the following aliases: Adnan G. El Shukri Jumah; Abu Arif; Ja'far Al-Tayar; Jaffar Al-Tayyar; Jafar Tayar; Jaafar Al-Tayyar Poster: <http://www.fbi.gov/terrorinfo/adnan.htm> Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel03/mueller032003.htm>

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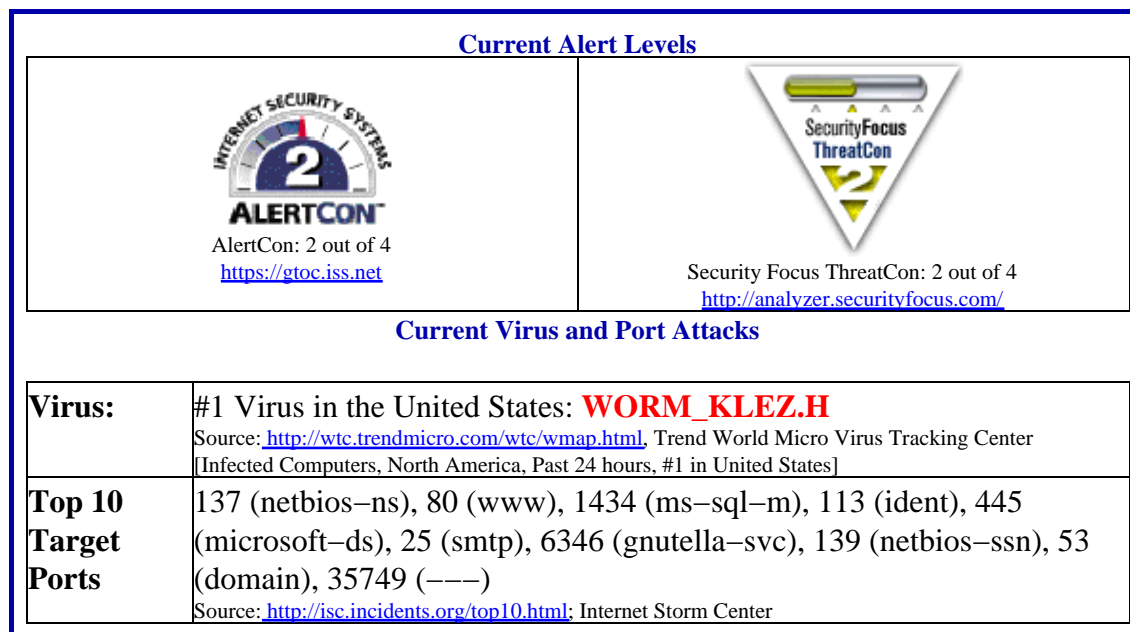
Information and Telecommunications Sector

33. *March 20, Washington Post* — **Antiwar digital graffiti prompts security experts to warn of further cyberattacks**. A hacker group marred hundreds of Web sites with digital graffiti Wednesday night in an apparent response to the onset of the U.S.-led war against Iraq, prompting security experts to warn of further cyberattacks in the days to come. **Unix Security Guards, a pro-Islamic hacking group which includes hackers from Egypt, Morocco, Kuwait and Indonesia, defaced nearly 400 Web sites Wednesday evening with antiwar slogans written in Arabic and English**, according to iDefense, a U.S. Internet security firm. **Text posted on sites by the hacker group said the defacements were the beginning of "the new era of cyber war we promised! More is coming, just like the US do [sic] what it wants to the world, we will do what we want to the Internet. Stop the US terroristes [sic] and we will stop! Viva Iraq!"** The attacks were typical of the sort of "hacktivism" that has accompanied international conflicts in the past, said Jim Melnick, director of threat intelligence for iDefense. Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A62865-2003Mar_20.html
34. *March 19, IDG News Service* — **Text message freezes Siemens 35 and 45 phones. A long-known bug can still freeze two series of cell phones manufactured by Siemens AG if users haven't yet installed a patch. Siemens' 35 and 45 series phones are affected by the bug**, said Siemens spokesman Michael Stenberg. The bug, according to Stenberg, is linked to the EMS (enhanced messaging service) technology used in the phones. **By sending a single word, for instance, from the phone's language menu surrounded by quote marks and preceded by an asterisk as control code to an EMS-capable handset, people can cause the phone receiving the message to freeze.** Siemens opted not to inform all handset customers of the problem, fearing that such a move could prompt misuse by certain groups, he said. **The company's hotline and service point teams have provided and continue to provide information and software updates upon request**, he said. The bug causes no problems other than freezing up the handset, Stenberg said. "If you're aware of the bug and see a corrupt message, you can simply delete it," he said. "And if you happen to open it and your handset freezes, all you have to do is turn your phone off and then on again." Source: <http://www.idg.net/go.cgi?id=792360>
35. *March 18, Sophos* — **Swedish computer worm lures with Iraq spy satellite photos.** Sophos researchers report that they have discovered **a new email-aware worm that feeds on public interest in the imminent war in Iraq** in an apparent attempt to lure unsuspecting users. **The**

W32/Ganda—A worm, which appears to have been written in Sweden, uses a variety of different email subject lines and message bodies in both English and Swedish to try and encourage computer users to run its viral attachment. Possible subjects are "Spy pics," "GO USA" and "Is USA always number one?" In a bizarre twist, the author of W32/Ganda—A claims to have a grievance with the Swedish educational system. **Companies should consider blocking all Windows programs at their email gateway. Computer users should keep their anti-virus software updated.**

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/virusinfo/articles/ganda.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

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